



Rural Transportation Advocacy Council

Linking Arizona to the Global Economy

Central Arizona Governments
Central Yavapai Metro. Planning Org.
Lake Havasu Metro. Planning Org.
MetroPlan Greater Flagstaff
Northern Arizona Council of Gov'ts.
Sierra Vista Metro. Planning Org.
Southeastern Arizona Governments Org.
Sun Corridor Metro. Planning Org.
Western Arizona Council of Gov'ts.
Yuma Metropolitan Planning Org.

RTAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 27, 2023 1:00 PM

Virtual ZOOM Meeting

Board members present:

Paul David (Chairman)
Nancy Campbell (Vice Chair)
Tom Armstrong
Gary Knight
Mary Mallory
Cecilia McCollough
Duce Minor
Alton Shepherd
Miranda Sweet
Carolyn Umphrey
Jeronimo Vasquez

Supervisor, Graham County (SEAGO)
Councilmember, Lake Havasu City (LHMPO)
Councilmember, Town of Chino Valley (CYMPO)
Councilmember, City of Yuma (YMPO)
Supervisor, Yavapai County (NACOG)
Vice Mayor, Town of Wellton (YMPO Alt.)
Supervisor, La Paz County (WACOG Alt.)
Supervisor, Apache County (NACOG Alt.)
Councilmember, City of Flagstaff (MetroPlan Alt.)
Councilmember, City of Sierra Vista (SVMPO)
Supervisor, Coconino County (MetroPlan)

Attending:

Kevin Adam	RTAC
Travis Ashbaugh	CAG
Dedrick Denton	Pinal County
Chris Fetzer	NACOG
Vinny Gallegos	CYMPO
Cynthia Gentle	Yavapai County
Irene Higgs	SCMPO
Mike Huff	NACOG
Kate Morley	MetroPlan
Jenn O'Connor	NACOG
Katy Proctor	City of Maricopa
Andrea Robles	CAG
Fernando Villegas	YMPO

1. Chairman Paul David called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM. Legislative Liaison Kevin Adam read the names of those who had logged in to the virtual meeting.
2. Chair David made a call to the public. No one wished to address the Board.
3. Chair David called for a motion to approve the draft RTAC Board meeting minutes of September 25, 2023. Vice Chair Nancy Campbell made the motion seconded by Sierra Vista Councilmember Carolyn Umphrey for approval which passed unanimously.

4. Chair David called on Mr. Adam to discuss a proposed membership change to the RTAC Board. Mr. Adam stated that RTAC provides each region with wide latitude on who they seek for appointment to represent them on the RTAC Board. The requirements are that they must be a currently-serving, locally-elected official from the region. Beyond those requirements, RTAC Board approval is essentially a formality. He stated that at CYMPO's previous Executive Committee meeting, they voted to reverse their current representation switching Chino Valley Councilmember Tom Armstrong to the primary RTAC Board member position and Dewey-Humboldt Mayor John Hughes to the alternate due to Councilmember Armstrong's better availability to participate. Yuma Councilmember Gary Knight made the motion seconded by Coconino County Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez to approve the adjustment which passed unanimously.

5. Chair David called on Mr. Adam to provide a legislative update. He stated that the revenue outlook was not as optimistic as last year due primarily to higher than projected revenue losses from the previous year's individual income tax cuts coupled with the exhaustion of COVID-related federal revenues which were no longer available to boost state revenue levels. He stated that state sales tax collections were still experiencing some modest growth while corporate income tax revenue was actually considerably higher than anticipated, cutting into a substantial portion of the individual income tax losses. He indicated that RTAC would still be running the priority project legislation despite the strong possibility of no funding availability for more projects. He stated that discussing the bill and articulating the unfunded needs and their impacts would help keep the under-investment levels a visible topic at the Legislature which could also serve to minimize any consideration of taking funding away from transportation in the event of a deficit. He further stated that for the year after, he had started discussions with the RTAC Advisory Committee on an alternative means to highlighting the issue such as a comprehensive list of Greater Arizona's unmet needs compared to likely available revenues, and that the Board would be more fully briefed when the Advisory Committee had a more concrete proposal to bring forward for consideration. He was also interested in continuing the Board presentation at the Rural Transportation Summit showcasing one project from each region which could complement the revenue/needs assessment. Mr. Adam stated that he was also working with ADOT to develop a bill to reform the Arizona SMART Fund which would expand eligibility and provide more flexibility in how the funding is allocated.

6. Chair David called on Mr. Adam to discuss the proposed RTAC Board meeting schedule for the upcoming year. Mr. Adam stated that the timing was essentially the same as the previous year and that they would continue to be split between in person and virtual formats fairly evenly. Vice Chair Campbell made a motion seconded by Councilmember Knight to approve the meeting schedule which passed unanimously.

7. Chair David called on Central Yavapai MPO Executive Director Vinny Gallegos to provide an update from the RTAC Advisory Committee. Director Gallegos indicated that the Committee would continue to provide support for the priority project legislation and also work with Mr. Adam to develop a proposal for the following year which will be brought to the Board early next year. He indicated that the Rural Transportation Summit in Yuma was a success and thanked YMPO and their executive director Crystal Figueroa for all of their efforts. He mentioned that CYMPO would be hosting next year's Summit in Prescott which would be the 25th anniversary of the first summit.

8. Chair David requested proposals for agenda items for the next Board meeting. There were no recommendations. He concluded the meeting by congratulating Pinal County Supervisor Steve Miller for his election as President of the County Supervisors Association, Apache County Supervisor Alton Shepherd as the 1st Vice President and Yavapai County Supervisor Mary Mallory as the Chair of the Medium County Caucus.

9. Chair David adjourned the meeting.